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MAKING SILHOUETTES FOR THE CONTEST

By J. M. WEED,

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Electricals working in the laboratory must have been a little puzzled at seeing so many of the profs mount the stairs by Professor Caldwell's office and go along the balcony to room 278, disappear mysteriously for a few minutes and then emerge smiling and non-committal. Every effort was made to attract as little attention as possible and not to reveal what was going on. Now it can be told: In that room all the silhouettes were made for the OHIO STATE ENGINEER contest.

Room 278 is another of those interesting places about the College of Engineering, little suspected except by the initiate. It is labeled Illumination Laboratory, and it contains apparatus for a very interesting study by Mr. Tang of the E. E. Department, the prediction of the amount of daylight admitted by light courts in tall buildings.

Part of this apparatus was used in making the silhouettes.

To obtain the equivalent of an illuminated northern sky, Mr. Tang uses a box containing 72 100-watt bulbs. Just figure that current consumption in kilowatts. This box is covered with tracing paper to diffuse the light. A corner of this box and 6 of the bulbs were used in making the silhouettes.

The remainder of the box and other apparatus near by are covered with black cloth to cut down reflections. The subject—a person as distinguished from an object—is seated on a bench in front of the illuminated patch of sky. The camera, an ordinary 2¼ by

3¼ folding kodak with portrait attachment, is about 3 feet away in such a position as to be focused on the subject. When all is ready a tenth second exposure does the work.

Quite a bit of experimentation was necessary to get good results. First the empty camera had to be focused on the light and the proper position marked. Tests indicated that a 7.7 shutter opening and a 1/10 second exposure gave the blackest shadows and most interesting detail in the way of rumpled hair, flowing whiskers and open spaces under neckties.

RULES OF THE CONTEST

1. This contest is open to all undergraduate students in the Ohio State University, except assistants in the Departments and members of the Ohio State Engineer staff.
2. Answers must be submitted on the printed forms as found in the Ohio State Engineer. Every contestant may submit as many complete sets of answers as he wishes, each set to be in a separate envelope. No one person shall be eligible for more than one prize.
3. Answers must be filed before four (4) P. M., Friday, May 11, 1928, in sealed envelopes marked "Silhouette Contest, College of Engineering, Lord Hall."
4. Names and departments must be given exactly as printed on the official list.
5. In case of a tie neatness will be taken into consideration in determining the winner.
6. The decision of the judges shall be final.